

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9 have been examined, and claims 8, 10, and 11 have been withdrawn from consideration for being directed to a non-elected species. Of the examined claims, claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and claims 1-3, 6, 7, and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Also, the Examiner acknowledges that claims 4 and 5 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Objection to the drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because they allegedly do not show the claimed “inner lid.” Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims overcome the objection.

II. Objection to the title

The Examiner has objected to the title because it is allegedly not descriptive. Applicants submit that the amendments to the title overcome the objection.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because the phrase “the third position” lacks antecedent basis. Applicants submit that the amendments to the claim overcome the rejection.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because the claimed “inner lid” is not described in the specification in such a way to enable one skilled in the art to

practice the invention. Applicants submit that the amendments to the claim overcome the rejection.

V. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,848,042 to Takahashi et al. (“Takahashi”)

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi. Applicants submit that the claims are patentable over the reference.

A. Claim 1

Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Takahashi. For example, claim 1 states that the claimed electronic instrument comprises a driving mechanism for moving a first operation unit and a second operation unit and that each of the first operation unit and the second operation unit is movably and respectively held by the driving mechanism. The Examiner alleges that, in Fig. 4 of Takahashi, the panel 6 corresponds to the claimed first operation unit and the frame body 5 corresponds to the claimed second operation unit.

However, Takahashi does not disclose a driving mechanism that moves the panel 6 and the body 5 and that movably and respectively holds each of the panel 6 and the body 5. As such, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the reference.

B. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, and 9

Since claims 2, 3, 6, 7, and 9 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

VI. Allowable subject matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 4 and 5 for being dependent upon rejected base claim 1 but indicates that they contain allowable subject matter. Since the rejection of base

claim 1 is overcome, Applicants submit that the objection to claims 4 and 5 is likewise overcome.

VII. Newly added claims

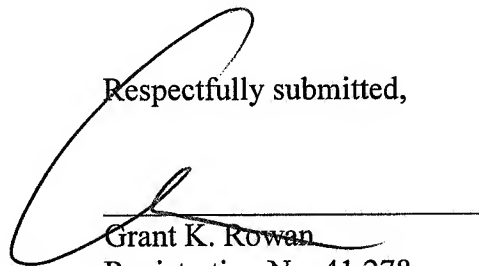
Applicants have added new claims 12-15. Since claims 12 and 13 correspond to allowable claims 4 and 5 rewritten in independent form based on claim 1 (before the current amendment), Applicants submit that claims 12 and 13 are patentable. Also, since claims 14 and 15 depend upon claim 1, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

VIII. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 6, 2006